30/28-13(1)

AN ADDRESS OF WELCOME

PRESENTED TO

General K. M. CARIAPPA, O. B. E.,
Commander-in-Chief, Army.

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO THE DISTRICT BOARD,
NORTH ARCOT ON THE 11th JUNE 1951.

Our Esteemed Commander !

WE, the President and the Members of the District Board, North Arcot have great pleasure in according to you a most hearty and sincere welcome on this occasion of your first visit to this district as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of Free India. It is indeed a matter of ineffable pride, joy and exultation to us that the first Indian Commander-in-Chief should hail from the South.

2 This District of North Arcot has made no mean contribution to the History of India, having been the scene of many battles in the past. The District takes the name after Arcot, the Capital of the Nawabs of the Carnatic, where the famous siege of Arcot, which is said to have laid the foundation for the establishment of the British Empire in India, took place. Arni, Ambur, Kaveripak and Wandiwash are other places which have played important parts in the Carnatic wars. Vellore, the headquarters of the District, is no less famous and the Vellore Mutiny may be said to be a landmark in the history of India's fight for freedom. We take pride in mentioning the fact that our district is almost the first in this State in the matter of recruitment to the army during the recent World War making thereby not an inconsiderable contribution to the army of the country.

3. Born in Coorg, in a martial race, you rightly chose a military career. From the rank of the first Indian Commissioned Cadet in 1919, you rose to the most exalted position of the Commander-in-Chief of the country in 1949. Your life throughout has been marked with distinction in everyone of the posts held by you and each promotion was the outcome of your hard work, combined with ability, efficiency and earnestness. You are, Sir, first and foremost, a soldier, possessing in abundance the qualities like discipline, alertness, quick decision, prompt action and courage of conviction, which make a good soldier. Besides these, you have also the human virtues which endear you to one and all. Your simplicity, kindness, love and sympathy for your brother-soldiers are all well known and they go a long way in making you the popular Commander-in-Chief, that you are.

4. Notwithstanding the fact that our country is pledged to the policy of non-violence enunciated by the Father of the Nation, we cannot be blind to the necessity of having an efficient army, navy and air force for the defence of our country. We are sure that under your guidance, the three divisions of our army will be developed in such a way that it will not only be adequate for the defence of the country, but be ranked as one of the most efficient in the world.

5. We pray to the Almighty God to shower on you all the blessings to dedicate your life to the service of the motherland. We are thankful to you for having consented to be in our midst and receive this humble address of ours amidst your multifarious engagements.

We remain,
Our Esteemed Commander,
Yours faithfully,
PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT BOARD.

Vellore,
11—6—1951.

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